

southern Idaho and districts adjacent were remarkably cold throughout the final decade.

The month averaged warmer than normal in practically all northern districts, and throughout most of the Missouri Valley and the Plains. The Dakotas averaged about 7° warmer than normal; while the South Atlantic and Gulf districts averaged 3° to 5° colder, and most of Idaho and Utah from 7° to 10° or more colder. At Salt Lake City, Utah, the month was the coldest December in a record of 57 years, and some stations on the east Gulf coast had about the coldest December of record.

In departure of mean temperature, November and December of 1930 were surprisingly alike. The most notable differences were in the Dakotas and the eastern portions of the States next westward, where November had been only slightly warmer than normal, but the following month brought a marked excess of temperature, and from Mississippi northeastward over the Ohio Valley to western New York, where November had been warmer than normal, but December was colder.

The highest temperatures occurred usually between the 8th and 11th, save in some Atlantic States on the 1st. The lowest temperatures showed less uniformity in time of occurrence, but were reached mainly between the 15th and 27th. As a rule, the temperature extremes were not noteworthy, but in Nebraska this was the first December in a record of 55 years when not one station recorded a temperature of zero or below.

PRECIPITATION

In eastern and south-central districts the precipitation came largely during the first and last weeks, save that parts of the South Atlantic States had considerable rain or snow about the 17th. The second week was the time of greatest precipitation in the far Northwest.

December, for the country as a whole, was a month of scanty precipitation, especially from California eastward and northeastward to the middle and northern portions of the Rocky Mountain and Plains regions, and to a considerable extent still farther eastward in the upper Mississippi Valley, the upper Lake region, and the States just north of the Ohio River. In the Pacific Northwest there was mainly less than half of the normal precipita-

tion. Oklahoma, with most of western and north-central Texas, had more than normal rainfall, owing chiefly to the rains of the first week. However, the Gulf States, the Appalachian region, and the Northeast usually had about two-thirds to four-fifths of the normal amounts, but much of the South Atlantic region had more than normal, especially central Florida and the eastern parts of the Carolinas.

SNOWFALL

The snowfall of December was less than normal in nearly all districts west of the Appalachian Mountains, and was particularly scanty from California northeastward to southern Minnesota and central and northern Wisconsin. Northern and western Oklahoma and many adjacent districts had about as much snow as normal, likewise part of eastern Iowa; also from the western end of Lake Superior to north-central North Dakota the amounts were seasonable.

From central Pennsylvania southward practically all the Appalachian region had considerable snowfall, some portions having decidedly large amounts compared with what December usually brings. Nearly all of Tennessee had moderate snowfall, and north-central North Carolina and southern Virginia comparatively large amounts. New York and Vermont had mainly somewhat less snow than normal, but interior New England elsewhere more than normal.

SUNSHINE AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Much cloudy weather prevailed throughout the East and as far westward as the Mississippi Valley, in the west Gulf States, and the northern portion of the Pacific and Plateau regions, while in the south Pacific region much sunshiny weather prevailed. Elsewhere, about the normal amount of sunshine for December was received. The relative humidity was generally near or slightly above the normal over much of the country east of the Rocky Mountains, notwithstanding the fact that there was a general deficiency of precipitation in most sections. However, from the Rocky Mountains westward, except in the Great Basin, it was generally below the average for the month.

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS, DECEMBER, 1930

[The table herewith contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A more complete statement will appear in the Annual Report of the Chief of Bureau]

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks	Authority
Port Huron, Mich.....	15					Heavy snow.....	Traffic of all kinds delayed.....	Official, U. S. Weather Bureau.
Goldsboro, N. C., and vicinity.	17					Snow and sleet.....	Some damage, character not reported.....	Do.
Wichita, Kans.....	17					Glaze.....	Number of serious auto accidents.....	Do.
Nantucket, Mass.....	27	3:30 p. m.				Gale.....	High tide caused considerable damage to small boats and the water front.	Do.
Marquette, Mich.....	29-31					Snow and wind.....	Outdoor activities hampered; auto and railway transportation tied up; wind very severe at times.	Do.